

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 041212Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1087

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: REP. FORD COMMENTS ON SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. SWEDISH TV EVENING NEWS SHOW DEC. 3 CARRIED SEVEN-MINUTE INTERVIEW OF REP. FORD DONE BY CORRESPONDENT STROMBERG DURING NEW YORK-WASHINGTON FLIGHT. OVERALL EFFECT OF INTERVIEW WAS TO PRESENT VICE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE IN SYMPATHETIC LIGHT.

2. FORD WAS ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. FOLLOWING ARE HIS APPROXIMATELY VERBATIM REMARKS, BASED ON NOTES MADE BY EMBASSY SCREEN WATCHERS.

3. "IT CONCERNS ME THAT U.S. AND SWEDEN HAVE NOT HAD GOOD RELATIONS. THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT HAVE. I HOPE THAT THIS TEMPORARY BREACH IN OUR RELATIONS WILL BE HEALED. AMBASSADOR HOLLAND IS ONE OF MY GOOD FRIENDS AND FROM ALL I HAVE HEARD HE WAS AN EXCELLENT AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO HEAL THE BREACH. TO THE EXTENT THAT I HAVE ANY INFLUENCE OVER FOREIGN POLICIES, I WILL DO WHAT I CAN TO BRIDGE THE GAP."

4. STROMBERG ASKED FORD WHETHER HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT PRESENT PLANS REGARDING EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. FORD UNCLASSIFIED

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REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOO BUSY WITH CONGRESSIONAL

HEARINGS TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, BUT WITH GOOD WILL
FROM SWEDISH SIDE AND GOODWILL FROM AMERICAN SIDE PROGRESS
SHOULD BE MADE. "WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHO
IS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP," HE SAID, "LET IT BE A MUTUAL
APPROACH, WITH BOTH PARTIES GOING HALF WAY."
OLSEN

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